BEAUTY SPOTS OF INDIA

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THE MENTOR · DEPARTMENT OF TRAVEL · SERIAL No. 78

MENTOR GRAVURES

LAKE TEMPLE, MADURA, SOUTHERN INDIA

TANK AND ROCK TEMPLE, TRICHINOPOLY, SOUTHERN INDIA

DILWARRA JAIN TEMPLE, MT. ABU, WESTERN INDIA

Entrance to the Great Temple, Madura

MENTOR GRAVURES

ISLAND PALACE OF THE MAHARANA, UDAIPUR, CENTRAL INDIA

JAIN TEMPLE, CALCUTTA, NORTHEAST INDIA

TAJ MAHAL, AGRA, CENTRAL INDIA

MOST people know in a general way that India is a very large and interesting country; but very few who have not been there appreciate how vast it is, and how numerous and how varied in character are the interesting things to be seen there. The name India covers a great triangular peninsula which stretches down into the southern waters and is washed by the Arabian Sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on the east. It is equal in area to the whole of Europe without Russia, and is varied enough in its characteristics to be a dozen countries.

The census of 1911 gave the full population of India, as it is commonly known, as more than 315,000,000. Of this population 123,000 are British, and nearly two-thirds of these are soldiers. The British troops, including officers, amount to 75,000, and when to this is added the 160,000 native troops, the full standing army of Great Britain in India consists of 235,000.

The great native population speaks fifty different languages, and, while we of the West know the whole land as India, they have no word in common to refer to their country. The name India comes to us from the Persians; the latter gave the name Hind to the dwellers in the basin

of the Sindhu River, a Sanskrit name for the Indus. The river is still called Sind; while the land is referred to by the natives as Hind and by the English as India. So we see how the national name of Hindu originated. From that came Hindustan, which is a province.

A VIEW ALONG THE BANKS OF THE GANGES RIVER

No adequate description of the whole of India can be given in a brief article. There is almost nothing that can be said about one part of the country that is true of all parts of it. The familiar lines "From Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand" were intended to raise an image in the mind of wide, extending area, and contrasting physical conditions. As far as physical contrasts are concerned, however, it is not necessary to look to Greenland. There is climate Arctic enough in character in the Himalayas, which skirt the north of India, and contain a number of the highest mountain peaks in the world. There we find a region of perpetual ice and snow, and a temperature as severe as that of Greenland. In contrast to this the lower point of India's vast triangle is in the hottest equatorial regions.

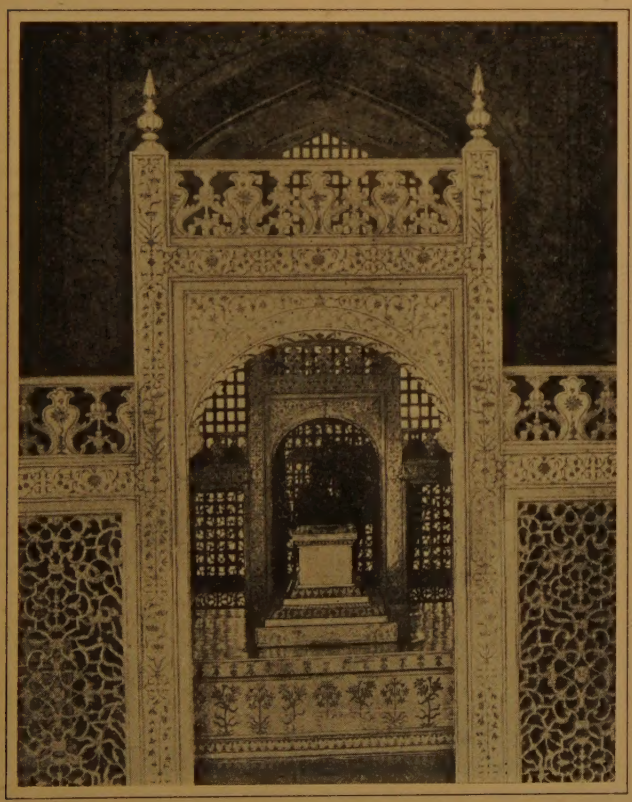
Geologically as well as physically India has three distinct regions,—the Himalaya Mountain region; the Lower Peninsula region, with a central tableland varying from 1,500 to 2,000 feet in height; and between these two the great plains of the Ganges and the Indus Rivers. Few travelers ever venture into the frozen fastnesses of the Himalayas: that region is for the explorer and the hardy adventurer. The lower point and the island of Ceylon nearby are well known and well traveled; but the localities in India that are most familiar to visitors from the West are in the central plains and the adjacent hill country.

Bombay is a point of arrival for many. That city is on the western coast, about halfway between the northern and southernmost limits of

the peninsula. Bombay is the second largest city in India, with a population of nearly 980,000. It is a busy, commercial metropolis, and most attractive in its situation and surroundings; but it is not a place where the traveler as a rule lingers very long. He will be drawn on to the cities where the history of Anglo-India has been made, such as Calcutta, Cawnpore, Lucknow, and Allahabad (ah-lah-hah-bahd′). He will turn to the places where the beautiful things of India are to be seen,—Delhi with its exquisite architectural monuments, Agra (ah′-grah) with its peerless gem, the Taj Mahal (tazh ma-hahl′), and the points along the banks of the Ganges, where there are many interesting and attractive structures.

AGRA

Whenever my mind turns to India my first thought is always of Agra and the Taj Mahal. I dare say that is the experience of most travelers. It is only natural; for the Taj Mahal is not only the most beautiful structure in a land filled with architectural gems, but is one of the most exquisite buildings in the world. As such it has been described in a former number of The Mentor.* There are many ways, however, of looking at the Taj Mahal. It has been considered in The Mentor as an architectural structure. To the ordinary observer the building makes an appeal that is more emotional than intellectual. The student may analyze the elements that combine to produce the extraordinary effect; but most people are in no mood for analysis when they gaze upon the lovely features of the Taj. They prefer to yield themselves to the emotions of the moment, wandering about the building so as to view it from different points, revisiting it again



THE SARCOPHAGUS IN THE TAJ MAHAL, AGRA

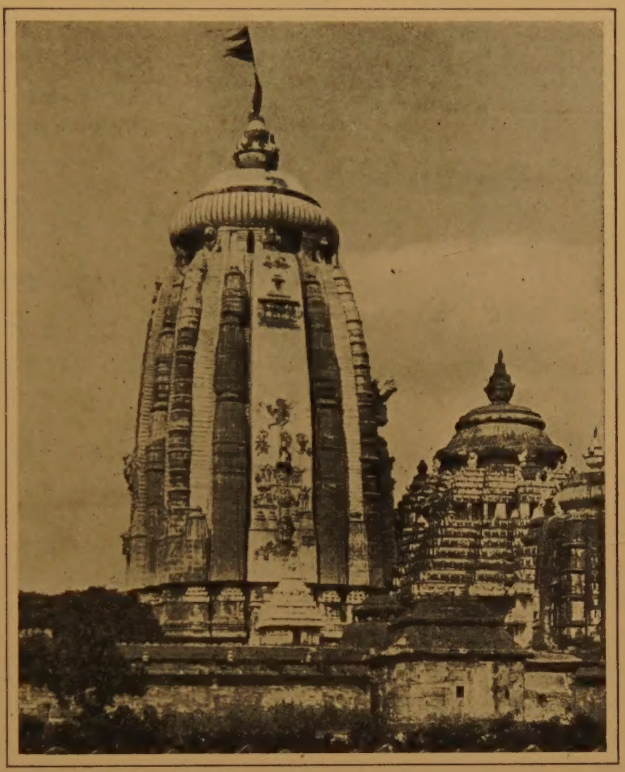
Surrounded by the most beautiful marble screen in the world

*Number 33, "Beautiful Buildings of the World."

ELABORATE PAGODAS, MADURA
Two of the nine pagodas of the great Hindu temple

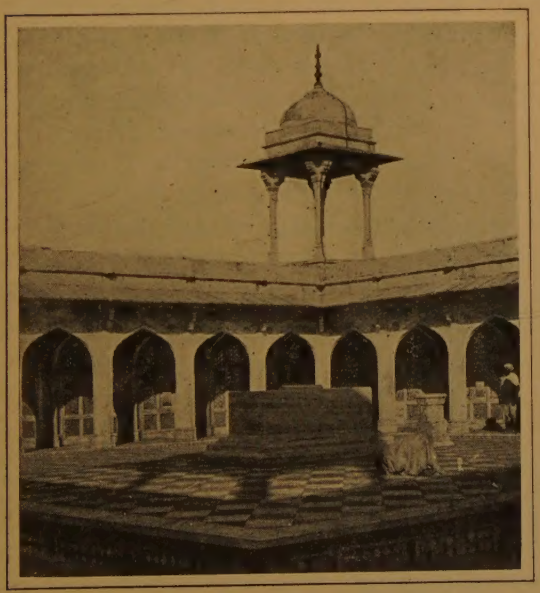
when the sun has set it in a different light, then a third time to see it transfigured in the moonlight. Some think that the best time to visit the Taj Mahal is late in the afternoon. But in the rays of the moon it is a vision of delicate beauty that, once seen, can never be forgotten. It has often been remarked that a great attraction of the Taj Mahal is its setting. This is true. The surroundings are most picturesque. The gardens are artistically laid out and well kept. The great gateway of the Garden Court,

which was built in 1648, is a worthy companion structure to the Taj itself. Every feature of the gateway, the garden, and the tomb itself leads you into a fitting frame of mind to enter "The Crown Lady's Tomb." There, recalling the story of Shah Jahan's (ja-hahn') favorite queen, you gaze in wonder at the great central marble platform on which the tomb of Mumtaz-i-Mahal rests. It is all very beautiful and very impressive. The great tomb stands under the center of the dome, which rises to a height of 210 feet, and is surrounded by columns and arches exquisitely carved, decorated,



SRI MANDIR, PURI

The Jaganath Temple, where one hundred thousand pilgrims attend festivals, bringing gifts

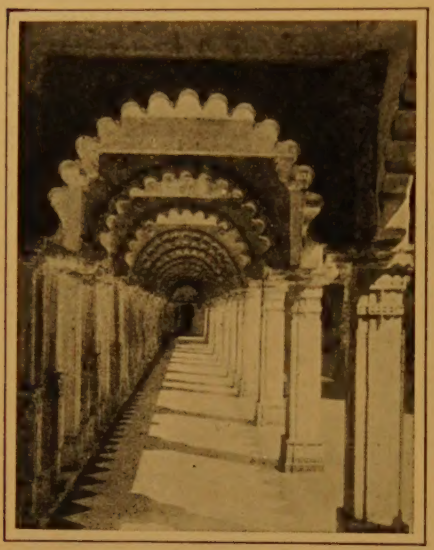


TOMB OF EMPEROR AKBAR, SIKANDRA

The famous Koh-i-nur diamond, now owned by the king of England, was once set in the small pillar beyond the kneeling figure

and inlaid with precious stones. It is no exaggeration to say that these designs form the most beautiful and precious style of ornament known in architecture.

In Agra is another building which might fairly be called a rival in beauty to the Taj Mahal. It is the Pearl Mosque, one of the purest and most elegant buildings of its class. This too was built by Shah Jahan, and it shows in all its features the taste of the planner and builder of the Taj Mahal. The mosque proper is 149 feet by 56 feet, and it gets its name from an inscription that



THE CORRIDOR OF THE DILWARRA JAIN TEMPLE, MT. ABU

runs the whole length of the entablature over the front row of pillars. These letters are of black marble inlaid into white, and they state that the mosque may be likened to a precious pearl; for no other mosque is lined throughout with marble like this.

THE LAKE PALACE

So exquisite in line and delicate in color are some of the structures of India that they seem at times too lovely to be real. That is the impression created by the Taj Mahal when seen under certain conditions. A like feeling is aroused by the sight of the Island Palace. In the center of India, situated 2,000 feet above the sea level, is the picturesque capital city of Udaipur (oo-dy-poor′), and the particular gem of beauty that it holds is the Maharana's Palace, situated in beautiful Pichola Lake. Among all the beautiful buildings that I have seen this extraordinary structure is unique and distinctive. Viewed from the banks of the lake it seems to have grown actually out of the water. It is of quadrangular shape, and built of granite and marble, flanked with octagonal towers and crowned with cupolas. Although it was built at various periods, uniformity of design has been preserved. The beautiful marble forms are now grouped in such a manner as to hold the island like a band and to frame the green trees within. The most attractive view is the one shown in The Mentor picture. It offers here a composition which nature and art have combined to perfect.

The white walls and towers cast pearly reflections on the surface of the lake. The foliage adds a deeper tone that gives substance to the fairylike structure, and across the lake and far beyond the palace a picturesque mountain forms a background against the sky.

A LAKE TEMPLE

Madura (mad′-u-rah) is a long way down the peninsula, and a trip of many miles from Udaipur. It is near the lowest point of the peninsula, and less than sixty miles from the gulf shore. Most people who travel down through India to cross the Gulf of Manaar (mah-nahr′) to Ceylon (see-lon′) pause at Trichinopoly (trich-in-op′-o-li) and at Madura; for in each of these places are sights well worth seeing.

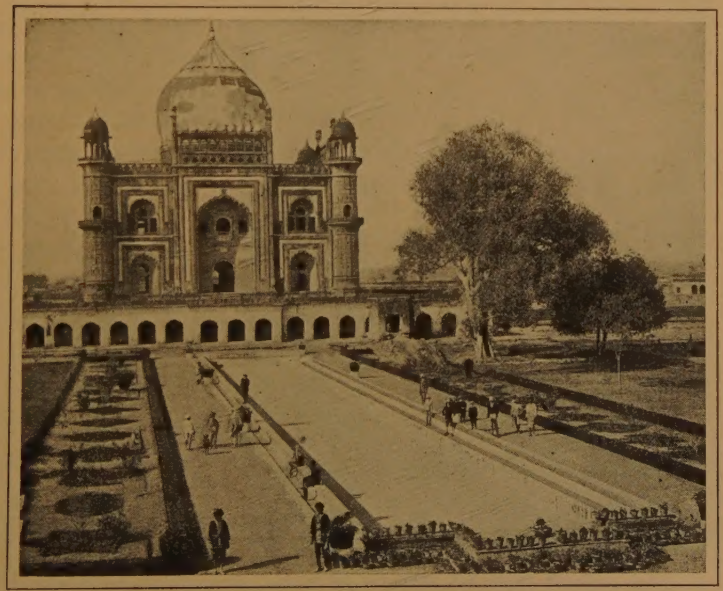
The great temple at Madura is not far from the railway station, and it catches your eye as soon as you arrive. It is most impressive, but not

so beautiful a sight as that of the Lake Temple, which is about a mile beyond. You will find this exquisite building in the Vandiyen Teppa Kulam or reservoir. The water is retained by a magnificent granite wall, and in the center is an artificial island, on which has been erected a temple which in charm of design and picturesqueness of situation is not surpassed in all India.

When you have delighted your eyes with the sight of this attractive little structure, go back to the great temple in the town. It is not well situated. The street approaching it is narrow, and the huts of the town are close together; but the great temple should be visited, for, apart from its extraordinary size, it is the most interesting of all Hindu shrines of India, because it gives one a most complete idea of the Hindu ritual. It was built 300 years ago—a statement which brings to mind the fact that India offers a greater variety in architectural styles than any other country in the world, and that it is necessary to know the date of construction and the history of a building in order to understand its structural features.

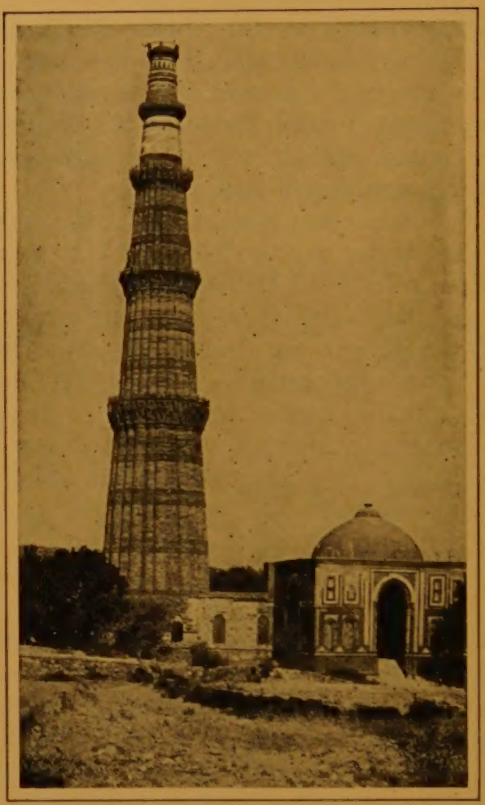
India is a country of many ancient religions, and each of them left a stamp on its architecture. The Parsees, followers of Zoroaster and formerly inhabitants of Persia, called the "fire worshipers," settled long ago in India, and have many devotees there now. Mohammedanism took root in India; also Buddhism, and the Sikh (seek), and the Jain (jyne) religions. These religions and others have a strong hold in India, and out of each religion grew distinct architectural styles. In fact religion had so great an influence upon architecture that the different styles in India have come to be classified as Buddhist, Jain, Brahman, and Mohammedan. The Christian religion is firmly established in India (there are nearly 4,000,000 Christians there); but the Christian churches are not of course included in considering Indian architecture.

The Buddhists were great excavators, and are known for their cave work.



TOMB OF SAFDAR JANG, DELHI

They distinguished their faith by the erection of topes (towers or domes constructed for sacred purposes) and memorial pillars. The Jains were great builders, and their imposing structures are recognizable by certain definite features, particularly by the great number of columns, which they arranged in squares, and by their domes, which were built, like their arches, horizontally, and gave the effect of odd-shaped caps. A great glory of architecture was revealed in India in Brahman and Mohammedan art. Many of the splendid, imposing temples are Brahman. The beautiful, vaulted mosques, with their domes and minarets, and the elaborately carved and decorated palaces, are Mohammedan. These are the principal styles; but architectural



KUTB MINAR, DELHI

This magnificent tower of victory stands near the great mosque of Kutb ul Islam

JÂMI MUSJID, DELHI

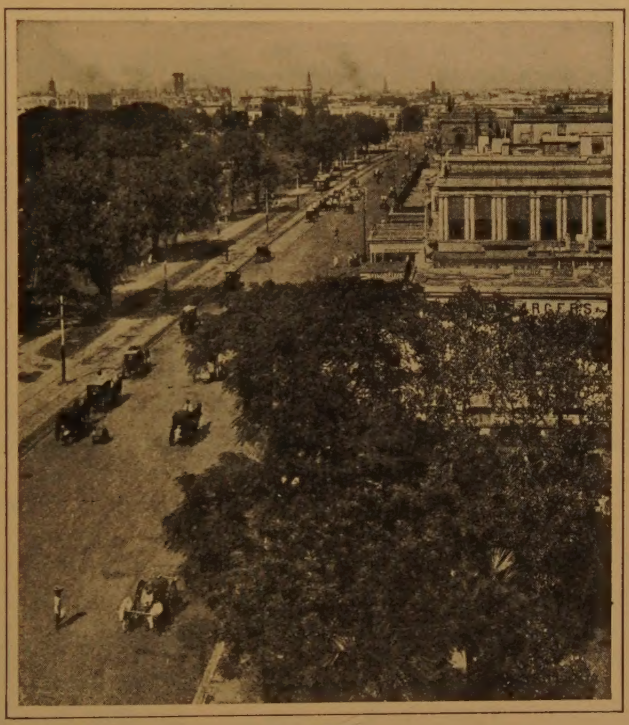
Looking north through the interior of the mosque

forms of one sort and another were taken by the builders of old from various sources within India and in Burma and elsewhere.

This country is therefore an inspiring place for the student of architecture. He will find as great an interest in the location and surroundings of these remarkable structures as he will in the different styles of architecture that they reveal. The builders of India sought picturesque spots. They would seize upon a small island and transform it into a fairy creation. They would take a rock and extend its form with the masonry of an imposing castle or temple.

TANK AND ROCK TEMPLE.

An example of the latter is to be found at Trichinopoly, not far from Madura. On the north side of this town is a great rock surmounted by a temple, and in odd contrast to this, at the foot of the west side, is a large tank with stone steps and a pavilion in the center. It is a spot not only of picturesque but of historic interest. Lord Clive, the English conqueror of India, lived in one of the small houses beside this pond somewhere about 1752. The temple that rears its head upon the rock at the back was built by a Madura prince about 1660. It is ascended by a covered passage which leads up to the top from the south. On the summit there is a pavilion affording one of the finest views to be seen anywhere in the plains of southern India. This is not because the rock is so high (it is only 236 feet in altitude), but the plains about are so level that this height is sufficient to command a wide stretch of country. The temple itself, as well as monuments and decorations, suggests the architecture of the Jains.



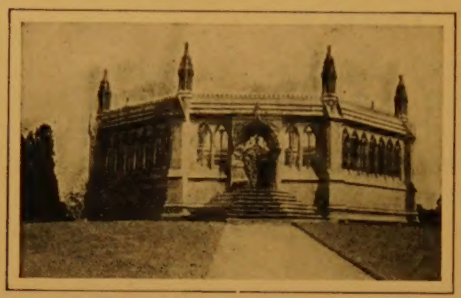
CALCUTTA

This city is the headquarters of the government of the Lower Provinces of Bengal. It is an important manufacturing center, with a population of 1,200,000

THE DILWARRA TEMPLES

The Jains are not strictly a separate religious sect. They are a monastic organization, and their order includes four classes,—monks, nuns, lay brothers, and lay sisters. They are extremely devout, and their temples and shrines are worshiping places of profound sacredness. They often built their temples in groups or what may be called cities of temples, and their love for the picturesque led them to construct their sacred cities sometimes in deep and secluded valleys and sometimes on hilltops, as at Mt. Abu (ah'-boo). The Dilwarra Temple at Mt. Abu is one of the most famous of all shrines of the Jains.

The plateau at the top of Mt. Abu is fourteen miles by four miles, and ranges in height from 4,000 to 5,600 feet. The climate is pleasant and



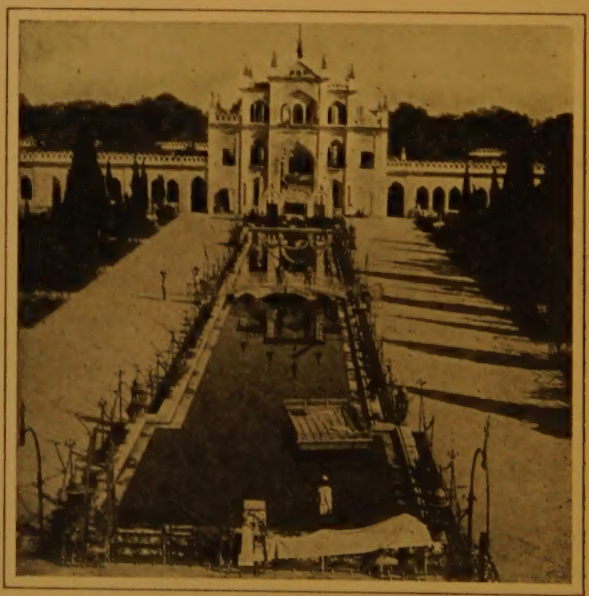
MEMORIAL AT CAWNPORE
This screen incloses the well where on July 15, 1857, during the Indian mutiny, many women and children were massacred

inviting. Many people go there for the summer season. The Dilwarra Temples are the great attraction for sight-seers. They are very beautiful, and, as one author has written, "they find a fitting framework in their nest of mango trees with green fields of barley waving at their feet, and high hills surrounding them on all sides."

THE JAIN TEMPLE IN CALCUTTA

Calcutta is the largest city in India, and the leading port of the East. The population of the city is close to 900,000, and when the suburbs are added the total rises well over 1,200,000. It is a city of enormous trade, and its principal feature is the port, which extends from Garden Reach to Cossipore, over nine miles. At the Durbar in December, 1911, the king declared that "Calcutta must always remain the premier city of India." It is the capital of British India and also of the province of Bengal. It is situated on the east bank of the Hugli (hoog'-lee) River, about eighty miles from the sea, at the point on the east coast of India where the Ganges opens its many mouths into the Bay of Bengal.

Calcutta, like Allahabad and Cawnpore, is prominently associated with the military history of Anglo-India. The awful tragedy of the "Black Hole of Calcutta," and the atrocities at Cawnpore in the Sepoy Rebellion, the relief of Lucknow,—these and many other incidents are familiar to readers of Indian history. Calcutta is a city of beautiful streets, buildings, and monuments, of gaiety, and of fashion. There is enough of interest and of instruction in Calcutta to hold a visitor for many weeks. With the thought of the beauty spots and attractive architectural structures of India, however, the Jain temples would be one of the first objects to be sought. These beautiful buildings are situated close to Cornwallis



THE MAUSOLEUM IMAMBARA, LUCKNOW
Looking over the court to the entrance gate

Square, in a garden by the name of Badri Das. They are built of marble and, taken with the surrounding gardens, they form one of the prettiest sights in the city. The temples are very pronounced and striking examples of Jain architecture. The style is pointed. The roofs are surmounted by many sharp little spires, and are supported by horizontal arches. The walls and ceilings are covered with delicately traced decoration. Elaboration of detail is carried to the extreme. In this particular, as well as in the character of the decoration, there is a suggestion of Chinese art.

DELHI
The largest Mohammedan mosque in the world

These are a few of the beauty spots of India. Years may be spent in the study of its life and art. The beginnings of both are far, far back, and a thorough knowledge of them can be acquired only through long study and observation. That the time so spent would be full of delight as well as of profit I can bear witness; for my own visits to India have left an impression on my mind of varied beauty in nature and in art that is vivid and ineffaceable; and though my visits there have been prolonged, I have brought from them the feeling that the riches of that great peninsula have been revealed to me only in part. India presents so many aspects! Its ancient history and religious life draw students. Its architecture draws the lover of art. Its varied and highly colored life attracts all who are interested in mankind. And the superb scenery compels the wonder and enthusiasm of the lover of nature.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

A HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELERS IN INDIA *Published by John Murray*

INDIA: OLD AND NEW *By E. W. Hopkins.*

INDIA *By Flora A. Steel.*

MODERN INDIA *By Sir J. D. Rees.*

INDIA OF THE RAJAS *By Rousselet.*

INDIA *Sir John Strachey.*

HISTORY OF INDIAN AND EASTERN ARCHITECTURE *By James Ferguson.* Revised Edition by Dr. Burgess and R. P. Spiers.

CALCUTTA, OLD AND NEW *By H. E. A. Cotton.*

CAWNPORE *By Sir G. O. Trevelyan.*

DELHI: PAST AND PRESENT *By H. C. Fanshawe.*

CITIES OF INDIA *By Sir G. W. Forrest.*

THE OPEN LETTER

We have lived for two years in an atmosphere of "It." The correspondence that comes to The Mentor office bristles with "it." The very walls echo with "it." From all quarters we hear of the good work that "it" is doing. "I have been a reader of The Mentor from the first issue," writes one, "and I feel that I cannot do without *it*." Others write: "*It* is delightful." "*It* is worth while." "*It* is wonderful." And, best of all, many write: "*It* helps me."

That is the message that means most to us: "*It* helps me." And it is a delight as well as a satisfaction to know that The Mentor helps so many, and that "*it*" is appreciated wherever "*it*" is known. Let me say, though, to you, good reader, that I know a better word in the cause of human service than "*It*." The Mentor is not "*It*." The Mentor is a *personality*, and from the very beginning the keynote of The Mentor Association has been *personality*.

★ ★ ★

The Mentor began with *personality*. The plan came out of a personal talk between a business man and several of his associates. None of us will ever forget that conversation. Don't think that we were simply discussing the publication of another magazine—nothing of the sort. Our idea of The Mentor was one of personal service—one person helping another in a broad effort for self-improvement. "We all want knowledge, and we all want to add to the knowledge we have"—that was the simple proposition. We knew of no publishing plan that had for its particular purpose the development of a popular interest in the various fields of knowledge. It was for that purpose that we established The Mentor Association.

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But, in a sense, we did not really establish it at all. You did that. We started it; but it was your ready appreciation and encouragement that really established it.

When, in that first conversation, The Mentor plan was developed, we all thought that there was a place for it, and that many people would welcome the service that The Mentor proposed to give. As The Mentor became better known, and the membership of the Association grew into thousands, we felt a natural satisfaction in seeing the soundness of the plan confirmed. But what fully established The Mentor plan, and what now crowns it and fills our cup brimful of happiness, is the assurance that comes in every mail that The Mentor is a great benefit—as some call it, "an actual boon."

★ ★ ★

I cannot think of the members of this Association in the mass. You are so many thousand individual persons, and, as the service that we give in The Mentor increases, I feel the personal touch grow closer. You see, The Mentor is entirely different from a magazine. Reading matter and pictures are only the beginning of The Mentor Service. The best part of it is the personal assistance in the way of advice, suggestion, and information. You want to be guided in courses of reading; you want to know facts in addition to those supplied in The Mentor pages; you want to know where and how to get pictures and books; you want to know hundreds of things that are suggested by The Mentor Courses. That is the service that helps you most, and that is the service we take satisfaction in giving. At our hand are reference libraries, the great book establishments of the country, the great art shops, museums, and back of all, the knowledge, judgment, and taste of the men and women who are associated with The Mentor in an advisory capacity. All this is yours. You have only to ask for it.

★ ★ ★

I have come to know many of The Mentor readers personally in correspondence. It is the greatest pleasure that The Mentor work affords. With every letter the value of the service increases, the vitality of the plan grows, the field of its usefulness expands. And so I am going to make a letter of this page—an "Open Letter" in which matters of interest will be taken up in the same direct, personal way as in our daily letters.

W. D. Moffat

EDITOR

TAJ MAHAL, AGRA, CENTRAL INDIA

TAJ MAHAL, Agra, Central India, the magnificent tomb erected by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife, is the subject of one of the intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "Beauty Spots of India."

AGRA

Monograph Number One in The Mentor Reading Course

THE Taj Mahal, the magnificent tomb of an empress, and the wonder and delight of beauty lovers the world over, stands in Agra, one of the most interesting cities in India.

Not much is known about the early history of Agra. Emperor Akbar lived there during the early years of his reign, and died there in 1605. It was Emperor Shah Jahan who did most to make Agra famous. He lived in the city from 1632 to 1637, and built much of the fort, and constructed many of the principal buildings of the palace.

Mumtaz-I-Mahal was the favorite wife of Shah Jahan. When she died the emperor vowed that she should have the most beautiful tomb in the world, and accordingly built the Taj for her last resting place.

This wonderful structure was begun in 1630 and finished in 1647. Twenty thousand workmen were constantly employed upon it. Every province of the empire contributed to its adornment; but even with these gifts and the forced labor of the workmen the total cost was $12,000,000.

The entire building is inlaid with precious jewels,—jasper, turquoise, agate, onyx, amethyst, and sapphire. It is said that the whole of the Koran is inlaid within its walls. The roof of the building is 70 feet above ground, and expands in the center into a dome 70 feet in diameter, which produces an echo that is extraordinary in quality and effect. One famous traveler, Bayard Taylor, said, "A single musical note uttered by the voice floats and soars overhead in long, delicious undulations, fading away so slowly that you hear it after it is silent, as you see, or seem to see, a lark you have been watching after it is swallowed up in the blue vault of heaven."

Shah Jahan was deposed from the throne by his son Aurung Zeb, in 1658. He lived as a state prisoner seven years longer at Agra; but Aurung Zeb removed the seat of government permanently to Delhi. In 1803 Lord Lake, the British general, captured Agra, and it became a British possession.

When the native mutiny broke out at Meerut and Delhi in May, 1857, there were but one British regiment, some British artillery, and two native regiments at Agra. The fort was held by Europeans; but two companies of the native soldiers, which had been sent to Muttra to bring the treasure there into Agra, mutinied and marched off to Delhi.

In early July the British moved out of the fort to attack the mutineers. Their guns were able to do little damage, however, and finally they were obliged to retreat into the fort. There were 6,000 men, women, and children in the besieged fortress. On July 20 the British made a sortie that was successful.

When Delhi was captured by the British in September rebellious natives advanced upon Agra. At this very time Colonel Greathed's force from Delhi arrived without their knowledge. The mutineers were completely routed, and Agra was finally relieved from danger.

PREPARED BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF THE MENTOR ASSOCIATION
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ISLAND PALACE OF THE MAHARANA, UDAIPUR, CENTRAL INDIA

ISLAND PALACE OF THE MAHARANA, at Udaipur, Central India, is the subject of one of the intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "Beauty Spots of India."

UDAIPUR

Monograph Number Two in The Mentor Reading Course

THE ruling family of the state anciently known as Meywar, the capital of which is the city of Udaipur, in central India, is descended from the bluest blood of India. The family is part of the Surya (soor'-ya) or sun stock, the royal dynasty of Oudh (oud).

The city of Udaipur was founded about 1670 by Maharana Udai Singh. A story told of this great ruler is that he was saved from murder as a baby by the devotion of his nurse, who substituted her own child for him.

The city of Udaipur itself is small, having a population of only 40,000. The main street of the town leads from the "elephant gate" to the Maharana's Palace, a magnificent pile of granite and marble rising 100 feet from the ground. It was built about 1570, but has had many additions made to it since then.

Udaipur is situated on the bank of Pichola Lake, in which are two islands. One of these is named Jagmandar, and on it in 1857 the European residents were sheltered during the Indian mutiny. Farther north is Jagniwas Palace Island.

The great Jagannath Temple in Udaipur is approached by a fine flight of steps, with a carved elephant on each side at the head. It was built about 1640, and is a good example of Indo-Aryan style. The porch is covered with a low pyramidal roof. The tower is ornamented by figured friezes and other architectural decorations.

The state of Udaipur is located in the central part of India and is rich in minerals; although the mines have long been closed. This state suffered severely in the great famine of 1900.

The chief of the district, whose title is Maharana, is universally recognized as the highest in rank of all Rajput princes. This dynasty heroically resisted the Mohammedans. It is said that they came from Guzerat (guz-e-raht') and settled at Chitor in the eighth century. When Emperor Akbar captured Chitor in 1568 the capital was removed to Udaipur, and the district came under British protection in 1817. The present Maharana, Fateh Ali Khan, who is a knight grand commander of the Star of India, succeeded to the throne in 1884.

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LAKE TEMPLE, picturesquely situated at Madura, Southern India, is the subject of one of the intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "Beauty Spots of India."

MADURA

Monograph Number Three in The Mentor Reading Course.

THE two most important things about the city of Madura are the beautiful Lake Temple and the famous Great Temple. The former is exceeded in importance by the Great Temple, in size if not in charm.

The Great Temple forms a parallelogram, 840 by 720 feet. Ornamental pyramids surround it, of which the largest is 152 feet high. Each one is carved with rows of gods and goddesses, peacocks, bulls, elephants, horses, lions, and a bewildering entanglement of symbolic ornaments. This temple contains some of the finest carving in southern India. All the most beautiful parts were built about 1630.

In the northeast corner of the temple is its most interesting feature,—the hall of a thousand pillars, which was built in 1650, and contains 997 pillars.

Madura is situated on the right bank of the River Vaigai, in southern India, and has a population of over 100,000. In the middle of sixteenth century Viswanath, the ruler, established the Nayak dynasty, which lasted for a century. The greatest of this line was Tirumulla Nayak, who built the Great Temple and the beautiful palace that stands in Madura, today used as a public office building.

Tirumulla built many other public buildings in Madura, and extended his territory greatly. After his death the kingdom gradually fell to pieces. In the middle of the eighteenth century British officers took charge of Madura, and the East India Company came into possession of it in 1801.

The palace of Tirumulla Nayak stands three-quarters of a mile from the Great Temple. It is a modern looking building, and the remarkable thing about it is that it has all the structural characteristics of a Gothic building.

On the north side of the Vaigai, a little to the north of Madura, is a curious building called Tankan, built by Tirumulla, where he held fights between wild beasts and gladiators. It is now the residence of the collector of the district.

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TANK AND ROCK TEMPLE, at Trichinopoly, Southern India, is the subject of one of the intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "Beauty Spots of India."

TRICHINOPOLY

Monograph Number Four in The Mentor Reading Course.

A FORT forms the nucleus of the town of Trichinopoly (trich-in-op'-o-ly). In 1753 the English in possession were attacked at night by the French, who penetrated the outer line of fortifications and advanced on the main defenses. It was a very dark night, and between them and the fort was a pit 30 feet deep. Into this the foremost lines tumbled without warning. Their cries awakened the garrison, who, owing to this warning, were enabled to repel the French and make 360 of them prisoners.

Trichinopoly is in southern India, on the right bank of the River Kaveri (kah'-ve-ri). It is important as a trading center, and has a population of 100,000. Its silver and gold manufactures are famous, and its weaving and cigar making are important industries. The well known Trichinopoly cigars, however, are for the most part manufactured outside of the district, at Dindigal (din-di-gal').

St. Joseph's College at Trichinopoly is maintained by the Jesuit Mission. One of its buildings is a house formerly occupied by Lord Clive in 1752.

The rock of Trichinopoly rises within the fort, and on this rock, 236 feet above the surrounding plain, is a beautiful temple. The rock is ascended by a covered stone staircase, and at intervals up this stairway are rooms connected with the temple on the rock. The stairway was the scene of a terrible disaster in 1849. A great crowd had gathered to worship at the temple when a panic arose, and in the crush 500 people were killed.

In front of the temple is a huge bull covered with silver plates. The temple itself was built about 1660, and from it a wonderful view may be had of the surrounding plain.

At the bottom of the rock on which the temple stands is a tank, with stone steps and a pavilion in the center. A short distance from this is located the Palace of the Nawab. This has been restored by the government, and is now used for public offices.

Trinchinopoly was the scene of much hard fighting between the French and English during the wars between 1749 and 1761.

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DILWARRA JAIN TEMPLE, on Mt. Abu, which rises in Western India, is the subject of one of the intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "Beauty Spots of India."

MT. ABU

Monograph Number Five in The Mentor Reading Course

THE great attractions of Mt. Abu (ah'-boo) are the Dilwarra Temples, an excursion to which is one of the most interesting in India. Mt. Abu is a sanatorium for British troops, and a hot weather resort for European residents in the summer season. It is an isolated spur of the Aravalli Range, and rises from the surrounding plains like a steep granite island. Its various peaks are from 4,000 to 5,650 feet high. The elevations and platforms of the mountain are covered with elaborate sculpture, shrines, temples, and tombs.

On the hill is a small round platform which contains a cavern. In this cavern is a block of granite bearing the impression of the feet of Data Bhrigu, one of the Jain gods. This is the chief place of pilgrimage for worshipers.

The two principal temples are situated at Dilwarra, about the middle of the mountain. They are built of white marble, and are wonderfully beautiful examples of Jain architecture. The more modern one was built by two rich merchant brothers between 1197 and 1247. The other was erected by another merchant prince about 1032. The principal object of interest in the latter is a cell which is lighted only from the door, containing a cross legged, seated figure of the god to whom the temple is dedicated.

The surface of Mt. Abu is much broken up, so that carriage roads are scarce; but there are many bridle roads and picturesque footpaths. The views over the plains from various points are magnificent. Mutineers attacked the place in 1857, but were beaten off by the English.

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MAIN TEMPLE, at Calcutta, the largest city in all Northeast India, is the subject of one of the Intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "Beauty Spots of India."

CALCUTTA

Monograph Number Six in The Mentor Reading Course

LORD MACAULAY, the great English essayist and historian, once called Calcutta "the city of palaces." And though its modern public buildings cannot compare with those of Bombay, it is nevertheless a city famous for its beauty, and known the world over for its commercial prosperity. Also it is a place that will ever be known for the tragedy of the "Black Hole of Calcutta," which made the world gasp with horror.

Calcutta was founded by the English East India Company in 1690. Before that it had been a small village. In 1686 the English merchants in that part of India were driven out of their trading station by the natives and moved to the present site of Calcutta. It was an excellent situation for the town that was destined in after years to be the leading city of India. Calcutta is situated on the east bank of the Hugli River (hoog'-lee), midway between Europe and the Far East, thus forming a meeting place for the commerce and peoples of the eastern and western worlds.

For many years Calcutta was a most unhealthy city. Some parts of it lay below the nigh water mark of the river, and it is related that in one terrible year a quarter of the European inhabitants perished of the plague. Since then, however, the problem of drainage has been solved, and Calcutta has become a clean, dry city.

The chief event in the history of Calcutta is the capture of the town by the nawab, or Indian ruler, of Bengal, Suraja Dowlah, in 1756. Most of the English fled from the town when the mutinous natives advanced; but a few Europeans remained, and after a short resistance were forced to surrender to the nawab. The prisoners, 146 in all, were crushed into a guardroom measuring only 18 feet square. There were only two small windows. It was the 20th of June, during the hottest period of the Indian summer, and the prisoners were left in this tiny prison throughout the night. The next morning only 23 of them were alive. The site of the Black Hole is now covered with a black marble slab.

Seven months later Colonel Clive led the British troops back into Calcutta and regained possession of the city. The following June the Battle of Plassey ended the mutiny, and England was supreme in India. But the memory of the Black Hole of Calcutta can never be erased.

From that time on Calcutta enjoyed uninterrupted prosperity. Today it is the capital of the Bengal presidency, and its population is well over 1,200,000.

The chief pride of the city is the park, where are many monuments, among them statues of Lord Roberts, the English military genius who died in November, 1914, and of Lord Lansdowne, the British statesman. Facing the park for a couple of miles is the Chowringhee, one of the most famous streets in the world. It was once a row of palatial residences; but now it is given up almost entirely to hotels, clubs, and shops.

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